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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,666	02/06/2002	Hiroyuki Kunimaru	8023-1002	4631
44987	7590	08/08/2005	EXAMINER	
HARRITY & SNYDER, LLP 11240 WAPLES MILL ROAD SUITE 300 FAIRFAX, VA 22030			HO, DUC CHI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2665	

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/066,666	Applicant(s) KUNIMARU ET AL.	
	Examiner Duc C. Ho	Art Unit 2665	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

1. Figure 4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1, the term "IAD" in line 5, and VMG in line 9 should be written in full words at the first time mentioned.

Regarding claim 4, the term "switch board" should be changed to "- An exchange device" for consistency with technical words being used at the preamble of its independent claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in figure 4, in view of Ramaswamy et al.(WO 01/26312- IDS record), hereinafter referred to as Ramaswamy.

Regarding claim 6, the APA-fig. 4 discloses a VoDSL (Voice over DSL) technology that can be used in a voice communication service. A DSL terminal-An exchange device 101 is accommodated for voice data transmission from subscriber terminals 2-1 and 2-2, wherein the transferred voice data is converted into ATM cell and inherently transmitted as multiplexed over DSL (*corresponding to terminating at an*

exchange device a voice packet transmitted as multiplexed over a DSL), see instant disclosure page 1, lines 15-24.

The APA-fig. 4, however, does not disclose a step of --- converting at said exchange device said voice packet into a packet according to an existing exchange device interface --.

Ramaswamy discloses system and method for providing voice and/or data services. In Ramaswamy the Equipment Domain 31-fig. 3 (also referred to as Network Control System (NSC 31), see page 6-line 11 to page 9-line 11) converts the voice packet from the telephones 38 (1-4) into a packet at the ED31-fig. 3 according to the existing devices DSLAM 34 and the ATM switch 35-fig. 3, see page 19-line 33 to page 21-line 8.

One skill in the art would recognize the advantage of using the existing devices of the ED31 in converting the voice data into ATM packets (POTS over ATM) over the internal DSL Modem unit of the CPE 33-1 into packet in such a way the end users are at the advantage of not purchasing the DSLAM, the ATM switch, etc., when employing the POTS over ATM technology for providing voice and /or data service.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the APA-fig. 4 with Ramaswamy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been providing the end users voice and/or data services with minimum investment in interfacing equipments.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine APA-fig. 4 with Ramaswamy to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-5 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Czajkowski et al.(US 6,560,225); Flyn et al.(US 2004/0125936) are cited to show DSL terminal-exchanging device connecting system and method, which is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (571) 272-3155.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2665

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner


Duc Ho

11-03-04